

ABSTRACT

A method, an apparatus, and a software program to implement a method to detect a rogue access point of a wireless network. The method includes maintaining an AP database that includes information about managed access point (APs) and friendly APs, including the MAC address of each managed AP. The method further includes sending a scan request to one or more managed APs, including one or more of a request for the receiving managed AP to scan for beacons and probe responses and a request for the receiving managed AP to request its clients to scan for beacons and probe responses. The method further includes receiving reports from at least one of the receiving managed APs, a report including information on any beacon or probe response received that was sent by an AP. For each beacon or probe response on which information is received, the method analyzes the information received in the report about the AP that sent the beacon or probe response, the analyzing including ascertaining if the MAC address of the AP that sent the beacon or probe response matches a MAC address of an AP in the AP database to ascertain whether or not the AP is a potential rogue AP or a managed or friendly AP.